

Khamnigan Mongol

Khamnigan is a Mongolic language spoken east of Lake Baikal.

The Khamnigan people, called the *Horse Tungus* or *Steppe Tungus*, are natively bilingual, speaking both a Mongolic and a Tungusic language, which are inherited from their mixed ancestry. This bilingualism appears to be several centuries old. Their Tungusic language is Evenki (*Khamnigan* is the Mongol name for the Evenki), while Khamnigan Mongol is a distinct Mongolic language, not a dialect of Mongol or Buryat as traditionally classified in Mongolia or Russia. Mongol is the dominant language; the two dialects of Evenki are only used by part of the population, and then at home.

The language has declined in Russia, with few speakers left, but both Khamnigan Mongol and Evenki bilingualism remain vigorous in China. Khamnigan Evenki, though not a distinct language from other Evenki, is heavily influenced by Mongol, especially in vocabulary. Khamnigan Mongol, on the other hand, is the most conservative Mongolic language, little different from Middle Mongolian, though the system of vowel harmony has been disrupted. There is little influence from Evenki: although Khamnigan Evenki has a grammatical plural, for example, Khamnigan Mongol does not.^[2]

Khamnigan in Mongolia has strongly assimilated to Khalkha Mongolian, and even though some Buryat-like and idiosyncratic features are to be found (e.g. the very particular mood system lacking in Khamnigan in China), it overall resembles a dialect of Khalkha, and it has lost its particular Tungusic lexicon.^[3]

Khamnigan Mongol	
Native to	China, Russia, Mongolia
Region	Onon–Argun basin, Transbaikalia
Native speakers	(undated figure of 2,000)
Language family	Mongolic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Central<ul style="list-style-type: none">Khamnigan Mongol
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	(listed under Evenki, evn (http://www.ethnologue.com/language/evn))
Glottolog	kham1281 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kham1281) ^[1]

References

1.

Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Khamnigan Mongol" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kham1281>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

2.

Juha Janhunen. 2003. "Khamnigan Mongol". In *The Mongolic Languages*

3.

cf. Yu, Wonsoo. 2011. A Study of the Mongol Khamnigan spoken in Northeastern Mongolia. Seoul: Seoul National University Press.

See also

- Hamnigan-(Hamnigan Mongols)

External links

- Summary of Khamnigan (http://wals.info/language/lect/wals_code_mkh) in the *World Atlas of Language Structures*

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